

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 01569 021205Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

FEA-01 /107 W

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R 020924Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 1569

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EEC, YO

SUBJ: NEWLY-APPOINTED YUGOSLAV REP AT EEC DISCUSSES MEAT AND
OTHER PROBLEMS

REF: BELGRADE 0408, 6456 AND 6197 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: IN FAREWELL CALL PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR NEW ASSIGNMENT
AS DEP CHIEF OF YUGOSLAV MISSION AT EEC, ZARKO TOMASEVIC,
ASST DIRECTOR, OFFICE FOR ECONOMIC RELATIONS, FONSECRETARIAT,
TOLD US THAT "YUGOSLAV-EEC SITUATION WORSENING RAPIDLY", AND DISCUSSE
D
POSSIBILITIES FOR REDIRECTION OF EXPORTS OF MEAT TO OTHER AREAS.
END SUMMARY

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PAGE 02 BELGRA 01569 021205Z

2. REGARDLESS OF OUTCOME OF CURRENT EEC DELIBERATIONS ON POSSIBLE

INTRODUCTION OF SMALL BEEF IMPORT QUOTA TIED TO EQUAL QUANTITY OF EXPORTS, TOMASEVIC FORESAW "NEARLY COMPLETE BAN ON BEEF IMPORTS FROM YUGOSLAVIA UNTIL AUTUMN," WITH COMMISSION CASTING BLAME ON INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, AND THEY CASTING BLAME ON EACH OTHER.

3. TOMASEVIC ALSO COMPLAINED BITTERLY ABOUT CONTINUED RESTRICTIONS ON YUGOSLAV EXPORTS OF TEXTILES, CHEESE AND FISH, AND ON EXCLUSION FROM EEC GENERALIZED PREFERENCES OF 16 PRODUCTS -- MOST OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO YUGOSLAVIA.

4. TOMASEVIC REPORTED THAT VALUE OF YUGOSLAV EXPORTS TO ITALY, FOR EXAMPLE, DETERIORATING SO FAR THIS YEAR TO ONE-SEVENTH OF IMPORTS, AND COMMENTED THAT SITUATION "CANNOT CONTINUE FOR MANY MONTHS" AND THAT MEASURES TO RESTRICT IMPORTS FROM EEC AREA ARE UNDER ADVANCED CONSIDERATION.

5. GOY HAS REQUESTED EARLY VISIT TO BELGRADE BY EXEC COMMISSION PRES. ORTOLI, TOMASEVIC STATED, AND HE IS EXPECTED IN JUNE AT LATEST.

6. TOMASEVIC CONFIRMED TANJUG REPORT OF APR 1 THAT YUGOSLAVS HAVE JUST SIGNED NEW 45 MILLION DOL MEAT DEAL WITH LIBYA, COVERING ADDITIONAL EXPORT IN 1975 TO 21,250 TONS OF BABY BEEF AND OTHER BEEF, AND 25,000 TONS OF LIVE CATTLE. (6.5 MILLION DOLS' WORTH OF MEAT DELIVERED BY AIR IN FEB AND MAR.)

7. CONCERNING VECERNJE NOVOSTI REPORT OF MAR 25, THAT LIBERIAN FIRM "SPENTA SHIPPING" HAS OFFERED TO BUY ALL OF YUGOSLAVIA'S BEEF SURPLUS IN EXCHANGE FOR REINFORCED CONCRETE AND OTHER IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTS, AND HAS CONCLUDED CONTRACT FOR 11,000 TONS, TOMASEVIC CONFIRMED THAT NEGOTIATIONS TAKING PLACE, WITH LIBERIANS APPARENTLY ACTING AS AGENTS OF BUYERS AND SELLERS IN OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SOUTH AFRICA.

8. COMMENT: EXPORT TO LIBYA AND LIBERIA OF QANTITIES REPORTEDLY CONTRACTED FOR WOULD OFFSET OVER ONE-HALF OF DECLINE IN YUGOSLAV MEAT SHIPMENTS TO CM, THUS RELIEVING GLUT IN MEAT SUPPLIES AND BENEFITING BOP. PAYMENT PARTIALLY IN METALLURGICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BELGRA 01569 021205Z

PRODUCTS - TRADITIONALLY PURCHASED BY YUGOSLAVIA FROM EASTERN EUROPE - WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, PROVIDE BENEFITS EQUAL TO NEEDED HARD CURRENCY RECEIPTS FROM CM AREA, WHERE YUGOSLAV BALANCE OF TRADE LAST YEAR WAS IN DEFICIT BY TWO BILLION DOLS. INDICATED FURTHER INCREASE IN THIS DEFICIT UNSUPPORTABLE, AND YUGOSLAVS MAY BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT MORE FLEXIBLE EEC ATTITUDE.

TOMASEVIC HAS PROVED SYMPATHETIC TO US VIEWS AND GOOD SOURCE OF
INFO HERE, AND U.S. MISSION EC MAY WISH TO BE IN CONTACT
WITH HIM SOMETIME AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN BRUSSELS AROUND APR 10.
TOON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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